

TEX - FINN NEWS



ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FINN TO PRINT
The International Newsletter of the Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth

Volume 19 Number 5/6

Helmikuu/February/Tammikuu/January 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

For those of you that were brave enough to face the fierce cold and come to our January meeting it was worth it!

Dave Krekula didn't fail us as usual bringing his Finnish goodies. Too many to mention here but it was all good. We met Deana Pennell who is a student at UTD and interested in the Finnish language and culture (and she's a Stars fan to boot). She should fit right in.

We all had a good laugh watching Conan O'Brien's trip to Finland. He's quite talented as many of you know and watching him interact with all types of Finns was awesome entertainment.

For our February meeting our own Teddy Krekula will talk about the history and nuances of that unique Finnish language, including teaching some of the beginners a few basics. If you are interested in getting a good grounding in the Finnish language, please come out for our February meeting.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Karl J. Morris
Tex-Finn President

Upcoming meetings:

- March 20 - Movie night - Keisarikunta
- April 17 - Finnish food night
- May 15 - KP Wilska - Former CEO Nokia USA

MEMBERSHIP DUES—member invoice enclosed in newsletter
It's time to renew your membership. We have 67 members. The dues form is enclosed in the newsletter. Bring it to the February meeting or mail it to: FAS/DFW, PO Box 832933, Richardson, TX 75083

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION SEEKS NOMINEES

Dear Chapter Presidents,

As the Finlandia Foundation National moves forward into 2008 with exciting new programs we are also seeking candidates for the national board from our chapters. More than 1/3 of our board members are new to our board in the past two years and we will be electing board members again at our spring meeting in March. New board members are a healthy sign that we are not stagnating but are welcoming this infusion of new ideas and talents. Our Nominations Committee, chaired by George Sundquist, is starting to receive names and bios now.

As usual, we continue to seek people with a financial background to help us to effectively manage our endowment and those with a passion to work in our culture. Additionally, we would like to consider candidates from geographic areas that are not yet represented on our board. If you know of someone that would like to be considered please let us know.

Please give serious consideration to presenting a candidate. All info should be sent to George Sundquist at georgesund2@aol.com While we cannot guarantee the election of every candidate we will guarantee that each candidate will be voted upon and given fair consideration.

Wishing you the best in the New Year,

John Laine
President
Finlandia Foundation National

Please snail mail applications by February 15, 2008 to:
ATTN: Christina Lin, Exec. Assist.
Finlandia Foundation National
470 W. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91103-3594
(626) 795-2081
fax (626) 795-6533
<http://www.finlandiafoundation.org>

TEXFINN MEETING

Thursday, February 21st, 2008

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 6:00 PM

(North frontage of 635 between Preston and Hillcrest)

Program: History and nuances of that unique Finnish language, including teaching some of the beginners a few basics.

FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH TEXAS

Services are partly bilingual (in Finnish, with English inserts).
Coffee is served after services.

Dates and times for services for the Easter season are found on
the website: finnishlutheran.org

The church website has links to other Finnish groups such as
the Finnish Language School of North Texas and the Women's
club. The website has an English portion.

Rejoice Lutheran Church
532 E Sandy Lake Road,
Coppell, TX 75019
Address: 532 East Sandy Lake Road
Coppell TX 75019
Pastor's phone: 972 310 0166

25TH FINNFEST-COME CELEBRATE

Duluth, MN, July 23-27, 2008

Calling all Finns, Finnish Americans and friends of Finnish culture nationwide is the invitation from Jeanne Doty and Diane Fay Skomars, co-chairs of FinnFest 2008,. "We want to welcome everyone. It is open to everyone."

FinnFest USA 2008 celebrates its 25th festival this year takes place in Duluth, MN, July 23-27, 2008. The theme for FinnFest 2008 is "Sharing the Spirit of Finland" and will honor Finnish culture and heritage. It is expected to attract 7,000-10,000 people to its performances of dance, concerts, lectures, art exhibitions and tours.

The Minnesota Orchestra directed by the Finnish Music Director Osmo Vänskä will be a highlight of the five-day celebration.

The President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, has been officially invited to attend the event and the FinnFest 2008 organizing committee is hopeful to host Her Honor along with other dignitaries from Finland.

The first FinnFest event was organized in 1983 in Minneapolis, and has enjoyed a robust history since.

For the past 25 years, FinnFest USA has been the beacon of Finnish- American ethnic identity in the United States. Since the first FinnFest the festival has been hosted in fifteen different states and has joined forces with the Canadian Finnish Grand Fest twice.

Programming at this year's FinnFest includes later generation Finnish-Americans working with Finns currently living and working in the United States.

Today, FinnFest is international. It is more than a Finnish-American Festival. It brings people of Finnish descent and friends of Finnish culture together from around the world.

For further information about the 2008 FinnFest, please contact:

Ira Turunen
Chair, Publicity Committee
iraturunen@finnfest2008.com
(218) 213-6080
FinnFest at 25

FINNISH CITIZENSHIP - ACT BEFORE MAY 31ST 2008

Opportunity for Finnish citizenship - act before May 31st 2008

Under the new Nationality Act, which came into effect on June 1, 2003, former Finnish citizens and their descendants may now regain Finnish citizenship through a declaration procedure.

Former Finnish citizens have the opportunity to re-acquire Finnish citizenship by declaration, if they have lost it when acquiring the citizenship of another country, for example. Descendants of former and current Finnish citizens may also acquire Finnish citizenship by declaration, even if they have never had citizenship.

Please note: The declaration must be received by the Consulates General or the Embassy of Finland on 31 May, 2008, at the latest.

There is a processing fee charged for the declaration. You can verify the current fee from the Services section of this website or by calling one of the Finnish missions in the US.

You can download the declaration forms from the webpage of the Directorate of Immigration at Finland. Also, the Consulates General or the Embassy of Finland can send it to you by request.

Return the completed form to the Consulates General or the Embassy of Finland in person or by mail; do not return the form to authorities in Finland if you are only visiting the country.

Thank you,
Christina Lin, Exec. Assist.
Finlandia Foundation National
470 W. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91103-3594
<http://www.finlandiafoundation.org>
ffnoffice@mac.com

SALOLAMPI - I LOVED IT!

Olivia Ruuska was one of six first time villagers who received a full tuition scholarship to attend Salolampi. According to her it was a great experience. She was featured on the cover of the *Finlandia Foundation National Newsletter* this winter. Excerpts from her letter to the FFN expresses her enthusiasm. "Thank you!" she says I feel so lucky that I got to attend Salolampi. ...I liked meeting the kids who wanted to learn more about Finland too. ...t was a challenge at first when the counselors only talked to us in Finn. ... Now I feel happy to know some Finn words I can use at home like 'please' and 'thank you.' I even taught my younger brother to count to 10 in Finn. I learned so much. Thanks again! Olivia.



*KUVAÄ YSTÄVÄN
PÄIVÄÄ*

FINNISH ACTRESS - MAILA NURMI

(edited from her obituary in LA TIMES)

Maila Nurmi portrayed Vampira, a vivacious vampire who hosted scary late-night movies during the 1950s.

By Jocelyn Y. Stewart, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

January 16, 2008

In the early days of television, when horror movies were often campy by nature, actress Maila Nurmi created the character Vampira, a glamorous ghoul who as hostess of late-night fright films in the 1950s layered on her own brand of camp.

The character won Nurmi short-lived fame and a dedicated cult following. Nurmi claimed that Vampira also was the uncredited inspiration for later ghoulish yet glamorous female characters in film and television, including Elvira.

Nurmi was found dead Jan. 10 in her Hollywood home. The cause of death was still being investigated, said Lt. Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

Nurmi was believed to be 85, although sources offer conflicting dates of birth.

Born Maila Syrjäniemi in Finland, Nurmi immigrated to the United States when she was a toddler. By age 17, she had dropped her surname and taken on that of her famous uncle Paavo Nurmi, a world-class runner known as the "Flying Finn." In her teens, she moved to New York, and then to Los Angeles, to pursue a career in acting.

Little came of Nurmi's efforts to land conventional leading roles in theater or on screen.

"I'm a lady linoleum-layer," she told a Times reporter in 1962. "And if things are slow in linoleum, I can also do carpentry, make drapes or refinish furniture." And for 99 cents an hour, she cleaned celebrity houses, she told Entertainment Weekly in 1994.

Nurmi's influence can be seen in today's teen "goth" look, said Dana Gould, a longtime friend of Nurmi.

Director Tim Burton's film about Wood, starring Johnny Depp, introduced a new audience to Wood and Nurmi.

FINLAND'S DNA PROJECT - OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

I wanted to pass along this link to the Finland DNA Project. If folks want to be able to take their roots a long way back, this offers one avenue. Besides this, the project is looking to expand its database.

Please pass this along and I'll bring it up next time I can attend.

Thanks,

Joe Clement

<http://fidna.info/pm/>

Welcome

The Finland DNA Project will collect DNA data for persons who live in Finland, whose ancestors emigrated from Finland, or can trace a direct-line paternal or maternal ancestry to Finland. The data will be analyzed and reported for mutual access. Membership in the Finland DNA Project is free of

charge, and the administrators are doing their job on a volunteer basis, with no financial connection to amilyTreeDNA.

From this link order the DNA test kit sent to your home. You can access the results via the internet, password-protected. In the Finland DNA Project you will also participate in the comparison of the birth places of the ancestors of DNA relatives. Test result from another lab? Join The Finland DNA project by ordering at special pricing a test result at The FamilytreeDNA.

http://www.familytreedna.com/pdf/promo_gap.pdf

For complete information go the the website

<http://fidna.info/pm/> □

It is an opportunity to go beyond the church books to trace you family roots.

FINLAND EXCELLS!

What's the secret?

It starts with a high-quality education and follows with strong support for innovation, said Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, in an interview during his visit to Seattle Thursday.

"Very close and good cooperation between universities and corporations" is important too, he said. "Both companies and thestate are investing a lot into research and development."

The home of mobile-phone giant Nokia, Finland spends 3.5 percent of its GDP on research, while the U.S. spends 2.7 percent. Education in Finland, including university study, is free.

In his first visit to the U.S. he met with Vice President Dick Cheney, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

On Thursday, he met with Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, toured theUniversity of Washington and Boeing and gave a speech to a Seattle business group.

He was too busy to visit Ballard, home of Seattle's Scandinavian roots, but he did visit the UW, where he was impressed to learn the university offers classes in Finnish language and culture through its Department of Scandinavian Studies.

Finland is taking a lead on energy issues. While the country usesjust as much energy per capita as the U.S., it produces less carbon-dioxide emissions because it gets almost 30 percent of its energy from renewable sources, such as hydropower and biomass, converting waste from paper mills and the forestry industry into electricity and heat, Vanhanen said.

To cut emissions from cars, Finland is proposing to base its annual registration and vehicle taxes on a vehicle's carbon-dioxide emissions. The move would encourage production and consumption of low-emission cars, which would be taxed at a much lower rate, he said.

Finland's weather apparently is not dampening the mood -- a U.K. study pronounced it the sixth happiest nation in the world, despite a winter that includes 51 days without sun.

With 96 percent of the tech-savvy population using mobile phones, what kind of phone does its 52-year-old prime minister use? Nokia's latest smartphone, the E90. Does it beam him up? "Not yet," said his press secretary. "It's in the works."

FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Karl Morris

Vice President: John Laine

Secretary/Treasurer : Vern & Diane Ruuska

Program Committee: Marcia Kuusisto

Jeremy Martin

Newsletter Editor: Teddy Krekula

Circulation: David Krekula

Social Committee: David Krekula

Sharon Blalock

Library Committee: open

Sunshine Committee: Dale and Gloria Huhtala

Finnish Language School Contact Person:

Helen Tiainen;

Membership Committee: open

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
THE SOCIETY, WRITE OR EMAIL:

Finnish-American Society of

Dallas/Ft. Worth

P.O. Box 832933

Richardson, TX 75083

website:<http://www.texfinn.org>

email: karljm@bigplanet.com



TEXFINN MEETING DATE

February 21st, 2008

King of Glory Lutheran Church

on the north frontage of LBJ Freeway between

Hillcrest and Preston Road

Welcome to anyone who is interested in things

Finnish.

CORRECT MEETING TIME

7:00PM

THE WOODEN SPOON

1617 Avenue K in Plano.

Open Monday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

Tel: 972 424 6867 or 1 800 2 NORDIC

www.woodenspoon.ws

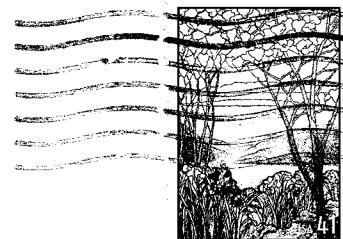
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LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY